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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

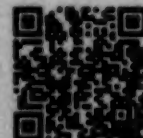
*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/469)]***70/184. Information and communications technologies for development***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012, 68/198 of 20 December 2013 and 69/204 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011, 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 and 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, and taking note of Council resolution 2015/26 of 22 July 2015 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Recalling further its resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and welcoming the high-level meeting of the Assembly for the overall review held in December 2015,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,¹ and endorsed by the General Assembly,² and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,³ and endorsed by the Assembly,⁴

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,⁵

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 10 to 13 June 2014,

Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report of the Broadband Commission entitled *The State of Broadband 2015: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development*, which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide,

Noting further the holding of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 4 to 8 May 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Commission at its eighteenth session,⁶ including a summary of the substantive discussion on the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit⁷ along with a link to the interventions made in that regard,⁸ and the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, entitled "Implementing World Summit on the

¹ See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

² See resolution 59/220.

³ See A/60/687.

⁴ See resolution 60/252.

⁵ A/70/63-E/2015/10.

⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 11 (E/2015/31).*

⁷ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁸ *Ibid.*, footnote a.

Information Society outcomes: a 10-year review", which was the basis for the substantive discussion, which have been forwarded to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly as input for its deliberations,

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014, and in João Pessoa, Brazil, from 10 to 13 November 2015,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva¹ and Tunis³ phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

3. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁹

4. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

5. *Recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and expresses concern about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries and Africa, as a continent, lagging behind the rest of the world;

6. *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide between countries at different levels of development in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and also expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

7. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;⁵

8. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

9. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by Mexico to host the meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, and recommends that the extension of the mandate of the Forum be considered in the context of the overall review in 2015;

10. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

11. *Recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divide, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;¹⁰

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society and other relevant processes, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, and decides to include the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development" in the provisional agenda of its

¹⁰ Resolution 69/313.

seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

*81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015*



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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.1)]***70/185. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries***The General Assembly,**Recalling* the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,*Reaffirming* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,¹ which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,*Bearing in mind* the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,*Recalling* its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999, 56/179 of 21 December 2001, 58/198 of 23 December 2003, 60/185 of 22 December 2005, 62/183 of 19 December 2007, 64/189 of 21 December 2009, 66/186 of 22 December 2011 and 68/200 of 20 December 2013,*Gravely concerned* that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,*Recognizing* that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²

¹ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.² A/70/152.

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015



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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.1)]***70/186. Consumer protection***The General Assembly,*

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/62 of 23 July 1981, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue consultations on consumer protection with a view to elaborating a set of general guidelines for consumer protection, taking into particular account the needs of the developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 38/147 of 19 December 1983 on consumer protection,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/63 of 26 July 1984 and 1999/7 of 26 July 1999 and General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985,

Recalling its resolution 65/142 of 20 December 2010 on international trade and development,

Taking note of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its thirteenth session, held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012, to conduct analysis and research and help all Member States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to formulate and implement competition and consumer protection policies, promote the sharing of best practices and carry out peer reviews with regard to the implementation of such policies,¹

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² notably the Millennium Development Goals and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³ the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development

¹ See TD/500/Add.1.² Resolution 55/2.³ Resolution 60/1.

Goals in 2010,⁴ in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and the Sustainable Development Goals.⁵

Noting that 2015 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection as a thematic issue, and acknowledging the enduring need for Member States to further strengthen the protection of consumers, the General Assembly remains committed to addressing the impact of development on markets and of technology on consumers,

Acknowledging that, although significant progress has been achieved with respect to the protection of consumers at the normative level since the adoption of the guidelines in 1985, such progress has not been consistently translated into more effective and better-coordinated protection efforts in all countries and across all areas of commerce,

Reaffirming the guidelines as a valuable set of principles for setting out the main characteristics of effective consumer protection legislation, enforcement institutions and redress systems and for assisting interested Member States in formulating and enforcing domestic and regional laws, rules and regulations that are suitable to their own economic and social and environmental circumstances, as well as promoting international enforcement cooperation among Member States and encouraging the sharing of experiences in consumer protection,

Recognizing that, despite the diversity of mechanisms and legal cultures that exist across Member States, consensus exists on the need for common principles that establish the main characteristics of effective consumer protection legislation, enforcement institutions and redress systems,

Believing that a robust legal and regulatory framework for consumer protection, including effective dispute resolution and redress mechanisms and the ability of consumer protection enforcement authorities to cooperate in obtaining redress, where available, across borders for consumers harmed by fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices, serves an important public interest, contributing to economic dynamism and consumer welfare,

Recognizing that Member States have a common interest in promoting and protecting consumer privacy and the free flow of information worldwide,

Considering that electronic commerce, which should be understood to include mobile commerce, has become increasingly relevant to consumers worldwide and that the opportunities it offers should be harnessed to help facilitate economic development and growth based on emerging network technologies, with computers, mobile phones and connected devices that promote consumer welfare,

Considering also that Member States, businesses, consumers and their representatives should devote special attention to the development of effective consumer protection in electronic commerce and that certain consumer protection issues, such as applicable law and jurisdiction, may be addressed most effectively through international consultation and cooperation,

Recognizing that consumer confidence and trust in a well-functioning market for financial services promotes financial stability, growth, efficiency and innovation over the long term and that the recent financial crisis places a renewed focus on

⁴ Resolution 65/1.

⁵ See resolution 70/1.

consumer protection, calling for effective regulatory, supervisory and enforcement frameworks in the financial sector to contribute to the welfare of consumers,

Recognizing also the importance of combating substandard, falsely labelled and counterfeit products which pose threats to the health and safety of consumers and to the environment and which also decrease consumer confidence in the marketplace,

Recognizing further the value of coordination and partnership with established multilateral organizations that focus on consumer protection in order to maximize the benefits to consumers and avoid duplicating efforts,

Recalling the proposal of the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices,⁶

1. *Decides* to adopt the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection annexed to the present resolution, of which they form an integral part;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the guidelines to Member States and other interested parties;
3. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations system that elaborate guidelines and related documents on specific areas relevant to consumer protection to distribute them to the appropriate bodies of individual States;
4. *Recommends* that Member States implement the present resolution and the guidelines contained in its annex;
5. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to exchange information on progress and experiences regarding the implementation of the present resolution, review that information and report to the General Assembly on this subject on the occasion of the Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices;
6. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote the guidelines and to encourage interested Member States to create awareness of the many ways in which Member States, businesses and civil society can promote consumer protection in the provision of public and private goods and services;
7. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy within the framework of an existing commission of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which will operate until the holding of the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, at which its work will be reviewed and the renewal of its mandate considered;
8. *Also decides* that the necessary resources should be made available within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out the tasks embodied in the revised guidelines through the reallocation of existing resources and/or the use of extrabudgetary resources from voluntary contributions;

⁶ See TD/RBP/CONF.8/11.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the guidelines by Member States, businesses and civil society.

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22 December 2015

Annex

United Nations guidelines for consumer protection

I. Objectives

1. Taking into account the interests and needs of consumers in all Member States, particularly in developing ones, recognizing that consumers often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels and bargaining power and bearing in mind that consumers should have the right of access to non-hazardous products, as well as the right to promote just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection, these guidelines for consumer protection have the following objectives:

(a) To assist countries in achieving or maintaining adequate protection for their population as consumers;

(b) To facilitate production and distribution patterns responsive to the needs and desires of consumers;

(c) To encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;

(d) To assist countries in curbing abusive business practices by all enterprises at the national and international levels which adversely affect consumers;

(e) To facilitate the development of independent consumer groups;

(f) To further international cooperation in the field of consumer protection;

(g) To encourage the development of market conditions which provide consumers with greater choice at lower prices;

(h) To promote sustainable consumption.

II. Scope of application

2. These guidelines apply to business-to-consumer transactions, including the provision of goods and services by State-owned enterprises to consumers. For the purpose of these guidelines, consumer protection policies include the laws, regulations, rules, frameworks, procedures, decisions, mechanisms and programmes of Member States, as well as private sector standards and recommendations that protect consumer rights and interests and promote consumer welfare.

3. For the purpose of these guidelines, the term "consumer" generally refers to a natural person, regardless of nationality, acting primarily for personal, family or

household purposes, while recognizing that Member States may adopt differing definitions to address specific domestic needs.

III. General principles

4. Member States should develop, strengthen or maintain a strong consumer protection policy, taking into account the guidelines set out below and relevant international agreements. In so doing, each Member State must set its own priorities for the protection of consumers in accordance with the economic, social and environmental circumstances of the country and the needs of its population, and bearing in mind the costs and benefits of proposed measures.

5. The legitimate needs which the guidelines are intended to meet are the following:

- (a) Access by consumers to essential goods and services;
- (b) The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers;
- (c) The protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety;
- (d) The promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers;
- (e) Access by consumers to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices according to individual wishes and needs;
- (f) Consumer education, including education on the environmental, social and economic consequences of consumer choice;
- (g) Availability of effective consumer dispute resolution and redress;
- (h) Freedom to form consumer and other relevant groups or organizations and the opportunity of such organizations to present their views in decision-making processes affecting them;
- (i) The promotion of sustainable consumption patterns;
- (j) A level of protection for consumers using electronic commerce that is not less than that afforded in other forms of commerce;
- (k) The protection of consumer privacy and the global free flow of information.

6. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, are the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment. All Member States should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns; developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns; developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, having due regard for the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The special situation and needs of developing countries in this regard should be fully taken into account.

7. Policies for promoting sustainable consumption should take into account the goals of eradicating poverty, satisfying the basic human needs of all members of society and reducing inequality within and between countries.

8. Member States should provide or maintain adequate infrastructure to develop, implement and monitor consumer protection policies. Special care should be taken to ensure that measures for consumer protection are implemented for the benefit of all sectors of the population, particularly the rural population and people living in poverty.

9. All enterprises should obey the relevant laws and regulations of the countries in which they do business. They should also conform to the appropriate provisions of international standards for consumer protection to which the competent authorities of the country in question have agreed. (Hereinafter, references to international standards in the guidelines should be viewed in the context of this paragraph.)

10. The potential positive role of universities and public and private enterprises in research should be considered when developing consumer protection policies.

IV. Principles for good business practices

11. The principles that establish benchmarks for good business practices for conducting online and offline commercial activities with consumers are as follows:

(a) **Fair and equitable treatment.** Businesses should deal fairly and honestly with consumers at all stages of their relationship, so that it is an integral part of the business culture. Businesses should avoid practices that harm consumers, particularly with respect to vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers;

(b) **Commercial behaviour.** Businesses should not subject consumers to illegal, unethical, discriminatory or deceptive practices, such as abusive marketing tactics, abusive debt collection or other improper behaviour that may pose unnecessary risks or harm consumers. Businesses and their authorized agents should have due regard for the interests of consumers and responsibility for upholding consumer protection as an objective;

(c) **Disclosure and transparency.** Businesses should provide complete, accurate and not misleading information regarding the goods and services, terms, conditions, applicable fees and final costs to enable consumers to take informed decisions. Businesses should ensure easy access to this information, especially to the key terms and conditions, regardless of the means of technology used;

(d) **Education and awareness-raising.** Businesses should, as appropriate, develop programmes and mechanisms to assist consumers to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand risks, including financial risks, to take informed decisions and to access competent and professional advice and assistance, preferably from an independent third party, when needed;

(e) **Protection of privacy.** Businesses should protect consumers' privacy through a combination of appropriate control, security, transparency and consent mechanisms relating to the collection and use of their personal data;

(f) **Consumer complaints and disputes.** Businesses should make available complaints-handling mechanisms that provide consumers with expeditious, fair, transparent, inexpensive, accessible, speedy and effective dispute resolution without unnecessary cost or burden. Businesses should consider subscribing to domestic and international standards pertaining to internal complaints handling, alternative dispute resolution services and customer satisfaction codes.

V. Guidelines

12. The following guidelines should apply both to home-produced goods and services and to imports.

13. In applying any procedures or regulations for consumer protection, due regard should be given to ensuring that they do not become barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

A. National policies for consumer protection**14. Member States should establish consumer protection policies that encourage:**

- (a) Good business practices;
- (b) Clear and timely information to enable consumers to contact businesses easily, and to enable regulatory and law enforcement authorities to identify and locate them. This may include information such as the identity of the business, its legal name and the name under which it trades, its principal geographic address, website and e-mail address or other means of contact, its telephone number and its government registration or licence numbers;
- (c) Clear and timely information regarding the goods or services offered by businesses and the terms and conditions of the relevant transaction;
- (d) Clear, concise and easy to understand contract terms that are not unfair;
- (e) A transparent process for the confirmation, cancellation, return and refund of transactions;
- (f) Secure payment mechanisms;
- (g) Fair, affordable and speedy dispute resolution and redress;
- (h) Consumer privacy and data security;
- (i) Consumer and business education.

15. Member States should work towards ensuring that consumer protection enforcement agencies have the necessary human and financial resources to promote effective compliance and to obtain or facilitate redress for consumers in appropriate cases.

B. Physical safety

16. Member States should adopt or encourage the adoption of appropriate measures, including legal systems, safety regulations, national or international standards, voluntary standards and the maintenance of safety records to ensure that products are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use.

17. Appropriate policies should ensure that goods produced by manufacturers are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use. Those responsible for bringing goods to the market, in particular suppliers, exporters, importers, retailers and the like (hereinafter referred to as "distributors"), should ensure that while in their care these goods are not rendered unsafe through improper handling or storage and that while in their care they do not become hazardous through improper handling or storage. Consumers should be instructed in the proper use of goods and should be informed of the risks involved in intended or normally foreseeable use. Vital safety information should be conveyed to consumers by internationally understandable symbols wherever possible.

18. Appropriate policies should ensure that if manufacturers or distributors become aware of unforeseen hazards after products are placed on the market, they should notify the relevant authorities and, as appropriate, the public without delay. Member States should also consider ways of ensuring that consumers are properly informed of such hazards.

19. Member States should, where appropriate, adopt policies under which, if a product is found to be seriously defective and/or to constitute a substantial and

severe hazard even when properly used, manufacturers and/or distributors should recall it and replace or modify it, or substitute another product for it. If it is not possible to do this within a reasonable period of time, the consumer should be adequately compensated.

C. Promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers

20. Member States should seek to enable consumers to obtain optimum benefit from their economic resources. They should also seek to achieve the goals of satisfactory production and performance standards, adequate distribution methods, fair business practices, informative marketing and effective protection against practices which could adversely affect the economic interests of consumers and the exercise of choice in the marketplace.
21. Member States should intensify their efforts to prevent practices which are damaging to the economic interests of consumers through ensuring that manufacturers, distributors and others involved in the provision of goods and services adhere to established laws and mandatory standards. Consumer organizations should be encouraged to monitor adverse practices, such as the adulteration of foods, false or misleading claims in marketing and service frauds.
22. Member States should develop, strengthen or maintain, as the case may be, measures relating to the control of restrictive and other abusive business practices which may be harmful to consumers, including means for the enforcement of such measures. In this connection, Member States should be guided by their commitment to the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980.
23. Member States should adopt or maintain policies that make clear the responsibility of the producer to ensure that goods meet reasonable demands of durability, utility and reliability, and are suited to the purpose for which they are intended, and that the seller should see that these requirements are met. Similar policies should apply to the provision of services.
24. Member States should encourage fair and effective competition in order to provide consumers with the greatest range of choice among products and services at the lowest cost. Member States should ensure that their consumer protection policies are not used to protect domestic businesses from competition or applied unfairly.
25. Member States should, where appropriate, see to it that manufacturers and/or retailers ensure adequate availability of reliable after-sales service and spare parts.
26. Consumers should be protected from such contractual abuses as one-sided standard contracts, exclusion of essential rights in contracts and unconscionable conditions of credit by sellers.
27. Promotional marketing and sales practices should be guided by the principle of fair treatment of consumers and should meet legal requirements. This requires the provision of the information necessary to enable consumers to take informed and independent decisions, as well as measures to ensure that the information provided is accurate.
28. Member States should encourage all concerned to participate in the free flow of accurate information on all aspects of consumer products.
29. Consumer access to accurate information about the environmental impact of products and services should be encouraged through such means as product profiles,

environmental reports by industry, information centres for consumers, voluntary and transparent eco-labelling programmes and product information hotlines.

30. Member States, in close collaboration with manufacturers, distributors and consumer organizations, should take measures regarding misleading environmental claims or information in advertising and other marketing activities. The development of appropriate advertising codes and standards for the regulation and verification of environmental claims should be encouraged.

31. Member States should, within their own national context, encourage the formulation and implementation by businesses, in cooperation with consumer organizations, of codes of marketing and other business practices to ensure adequate consumer protection. Voluntary agreements may also be established jointly by businesses, consumer organizations and other interested parties. These codes should receive adequate publicity.

32. Member States should regularly review legislation pertaining to weights and measures and assess the adequacy of the machinery for its enforcement.

D. Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services

33. Member States should, as appropriate, formulate or promote the elaboration and implementation of standards, voluntary and other, at the national and international levels for the safety and quality of goods and services and give them appropriate publicity. National standards and regulations for product safety and quality should be reviewed from time to time in order to ensure that they conform, where possible, to generally accepted international standards.

34. Where a standard lower than the generally accepted international standard is being applied because of local economic conditions, every effort should be made to raise that standard as soon as possible.

35. Member States should encourage and ensure the availability of facilities to test and certify the safety, quality and performance of essential consumer goods and services.

E. Distribution facilities for essential consumer goods and services

36. Member States should, where appropriate, consider:

(a) Adopting or maintaining policies to ensure the efficient distribution of goods and services to consumers; where appropriate, specific policies should be considered to ensure the distribution of essential goods and services where this distribution is endangered, as could be the case particularly in rural areas. Such policies could include assistance for the creation of adequate storage and retail facilities in rural centres, incentives for consumer self-help and better control of the conditions under which essential goods and services are provided in rural areas;

(b) Encouraging the establishment of consumer cooperatives and related trading activities, as well as providing information about them, especially in rural areas.

F. Dispute resolution and redress

37. Member States should encourage the development of fair, effective, transparent and impartial mechanisms to address consumer complaints through administrative, judicial and alternative dispute resolution, including for cross-border

cases. Member States should establish or maintain legal and/or administrative measures to enable consumers or, as appropriate, relevant organizations to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, transparent, inexpensive and accessible. Such procedures should take particular account of the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers. Member States should provide consumers with access to remedies that do not impose a cost, delay or undue burden on the economic value at stake and at the same time do not impose excessive or undue burdens on society and businesses.

38. Member States should encourage all businesses to resolve consumer disputes in an expeditious, fair, transparent, inexpensive, accessible and informal manner, and to establish voluntary mechanisms, including advisory services and informal complaints procedures, which can provide assistance to consumers.

39. Information on available redress and other dispute-resolving procedures should be made available to consumers. Access to dispute resolution and redress mechanisms, including alternative dispute resolution, should be enhanced, particularly in cross-border disputes.

40. Member States should ensure that collective resolution procedures are expeditious, transparent, fair, inexpensive and accessible to both consumers and businesses, including those pertaining to overindebtedness and bankruptcy cases.

41. Member States should cooperate with businesses and consumer groups in furthering consumer and business understanding of how to avoid disputes, of dispute resolution and redress mechanisms available to consumers and of where consumers can file complaints.

G. Education and information programmes

42. Member States should develop or encourage the development of general consumer education and information programmes, including information on the environmental impacts of consumer choices and behaviour and the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, bearing in mind the cultural traditions of the people concerned. The aim of such programmes should be to enable people to act as discriminating consumers, capable of making an informed choice of goods and services, and conscious of their rights and responsibilities. In developing such programmes, special attention should be given to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers, in both rural and urban areas, including low-income consumers and those with low or non-existent literacy levels. Consumer groups, business and other relevant organizations of civil society should be involved in these educational efforts.

43. Consumer education should, where appropriate, become an integral part of the basic curriculum of the educational system, preferably as a component of existing subjects.

44. Consumer education and information programmes should cover such important aspects of consumer protection as the following:

- (a) Health, nutrition, prevention of food-borne diseases and food adulteration;
- (b) Product hazards;
- (c) Product labelling;

- (d) Relevant legislation, how to access dispute resolution mechanisms and obtain redress and agencies and organizations for consumer protection;
- (e) Information on weights and measures, prices, quality, credit conditions and availability of basic necessities;
- (f) Environmental protection;
- (g) Electronic commerce;
- (h) Financial services;
- (i) Efficient use of materials, energy and water.

45. Member States should encourage consumer organizations and other interested groups, including the media, to undertake education and information programmes, including on the environmental impacts of consumption patterns and on the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, particularly for the benefit of low-income consumer groups in rural and urban areas.

46. Businesses should, where appropriate, undertake or participate in factual and relevant consumer education and information programmes.

47. Bearing in mind the need to reach rural consumers and illiterate consumers, Member States should, as appropriate, develop or encourage the development of consumer information programmes in the mass media or through other delivery channels that reach such consumers.

48. Member States should organize or encourage training programmes for educators, mass media professionals and consumer advisers to enable them to participate in carrying out consumer information and education programmes.

H. Promotion of sustainable consumption

49. Sustainable consumption includes meeting the needs of present and future generations for goods and services in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

50. Responsibility for sustainable consumption is shared by all members and organizations of society, with informed consumers, Member States, businesses, labour organizations and consumer and environmental organizations playing particularly important roles. Informed consumers have an essential role in promoting consumption that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, including through the effects of their choices on producers. Member States should promote the development and implementation of policies for sustainable consumption and the integration of those policies with other public policies. Policymaking by Member States should be conducted in consultation with business, consumer and environmental organizations and other concerned groups. Business has a responsibility for promoting sustainable consumption through the design, production and distribution of goods and services. Consumer and environmental organizations have a responsibility for promoting public participation and debate on sustainable consumption, for informing consumers and for working with Member States and businesses towards sustainable consumption.

51. Member States, in partnership with business and relevant organizations of civil society, should develop and implement strategies that promote sustainable consumption through a mix of policies that could include regulations; economic and social instruments; sectoral policies in such areas as land use, transport, energy and housing; information programmes to raise awareness of the impact of consumption

patterns; removal of subsidies that promote unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and promotion of sector-specific best practices in environmental management.

52. Member States should encourage the design, development and use of products and services that are safe and energy- and resource-efficient, considering their full life cycle impacts. Member States should encourage recycling programmes that encourage consumers to both recycle wastes and purchase recycled products.

53. Member States should promote the development and use of national and international environmental health and safety standards for products and services; such standards should not result in disguised barriers to trade.

54. Member States should encourage impartial environmental testing of products.

55. Member States should safely manage environmentally harmful uses of substances and encourage the development of environmentally sound alternatives for such uses. New potentially hazardous substances should be evaluated on a scientific basis for their long-term environmental impact prior to distribution.

56. Member States should promote awareness of the health-related benefits of sustainable consumption and production patterns, bearing in mind both direct effects on individual health and collective effects through environmental protection.

57. Member States, in partnership with the private sector and other relevant organizations, should encourage the transformation of unsustainable consumption patterns through the development and use of new environmentally sound products and services and new technologies, including information and communication technologies that can meet consumer needs, while reducing pollution and depletion of natural resources.

58. Member States are encouraged to create or strengthen effective regulatory mechanisms for the protection of consumers, including aspects of sustainable consumption.

59. Member States should consider a range of economic instruments, such as fiscal instruments and internalization of environmental costs, to promote sustainable consumption, taking into account social needs, the need for disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices, while avoiding potential negative effects for market access, in particular for developing countries.

60. Member States, in cooperation with business and other relevant groups, should develop indicators, methodologies and databases for measuring progress towards sustainable consumption at all levels. That information should be publicly available.

61. Member States and international agencies should take the lead in introducing sustainable practices in their own operations, in particular through their procurement policies. Member State procurement, as appropriate, should encourage the development and use of environmentally sound products and services.

62. Member States and other relevant organizations should promote research on consumer behaviour related to environmental damage in order to identify ways to make consumption patterns more sustainable.

I. Electronic commerce

63. Member States should work towards enhancing consumer confidence in electronic commerce by the continued development of transparent and effective

consumer protection policies, ensuring a level of protection that is not less than that afforded in other forms of commerce.

64. Member States should, where appropriate, review existing consumer protection policies to accommodate the special features of electronic commerce and ensure that consumers and businesses are informed and aware of their rights and obligations in the digital marketplace.

65. Member States may wish to consider the relevant international guidelines and standards on electronic commerce and the revisions thereof, and, where appropriate, adapt those guidelines and standards to their economic, social and environmental circumstances so that they can adhere to them, as well as collaborate with other Member States in their implementation across borders. In so doing, Member States may wish to study the Guidelines for Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

J. Financial services

66. Member States should establish or encourage, as appropriate:

- (a) Financial consumer protection regulatory and enforcement policies;
- (b) Oversight bodies with the necessary authority and resources to carry out their mission;
- (c) Appropriate controls and insurance mechanisms to protect consumer assets, including deposits;
- (d) Improved financial education strategies that promote financial literacy;
- (e) Fair treatment and proper disclosure, ensuring that financial institutions are also responsible and accountable for the actions of their authorized agents. Financial services providers should have a written policy on conflict of interest to help detect potential conflicts of interest. When the possibility of a conflict of interest arises between the provider and a third party, that should be disclosed to the consumer to ensure that potential consumer detriment generated by conflict of interest be avoided;
- (f) Responsible business conduct by financial services providers and authorized agents, including responsible lending and the sale of products that are suitable to the consumer's needs and means;
- (g) Appropriate controls to protect consumer financial data, including from fraud and abuse;
- (h) A regulatory framework that promotes cost efficiency and transparency for remittances, such that consumers are provided with clear information on the price and delivery of the funds to be transferred, exchange rates, all fees and any other costs associated with the money transfers offered, as well as remedies if transfers fail.

67. Member States should adopt measures to reinforce and integrate consumer policies concerning financial inclusion, financial education and the protection of consumers in accessing and using financial services.

68. Member States may wish to consider relevant international guidelines and standards on financial services and the revisions thereof, and, where appropriate, adapt those guidelines and standards to their economic, social and environmental

circumstances so that they can adhere to them, as well as collaborate with other Member States in their implementation across borders. In so doing, Member States may wish to study the High-level Principles on Financial Consumer Protection of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Group of 20, as well as the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion of the Group of 20 and the Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection of the World Bank.

K. Measures relating to specific areas

69. In advancing consumer interests, particularly in developing countries, Member States should, where appropriate, give priority to areas of essential concern for the health of the consumer, such as food, water, pharmaceuticals, energy and public utilities, and also address the specificities of tourism. Policies should be adopted or maintained for product quality control, adequate and secure distribution facilities, standardized international labelling and information, and education and research programmes in these areas. Member State guidelines in regard to specific areas should be developed in the context of the provisions of the present document.

70. **Food.** When formulating national policies and plans with regard to food, Member States should take into account the need of all consumers for food security and should support and, as far as possible, adopt standards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius or, in their absence, other generally accepted international food standards. Member States should maintain, develop or improve food safety measures, including, inter alia, safety criteria, food standards and dietary requirements and effective monitoring, inspection and evaluation mechanisms.

71. Member States should promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices, conservation of biodiversity and protection of soil and water, taking into account traditional knowledge.

72. **Water.** Member States should, within the goals and targets set for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve the supply, distribution and quality of water for drinking. Due regard should be paid to the choice of appropriate levels of service, quality and technology, the need for education programmes and the importance of community participation.

73. Member States should assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes concerning the multiple uses of water, taking into account the importance of water for sustainable development in general and its finite character as a resource.

74. **Pharmaceuticals.** Member States should develop or maintain adequate standards, provisions and appropriate regulatory systems for ensuring the quality and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals through integrated national drug policies which could address, inter alia, procurement, distribution, production, licensing arrangements, registration systems and the availability of reliable information on pharmaceuticals. In so doing, Member States should take special account of the work and recommendations of the World Health Organization on pharmaceuticals. For relevant products, the use of that organization's Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce and other international information systems on pharmaceuticals should be encouraged. Measures should also be taken, as appropriate, to promote the use of international non-proprietary names for drugs, drawing on the work done by the World Health Organization.

75. In addition to the priority areas indicated above, Member States should adopt appropriate measures in other areas, such as pesticides and chemicals in regard, where relevant, to their use, production and storage, taking into account such relevant health and environmental information as Member States may require producers to provide and include in the labelling of products.

76. **Energy.** Member States should promote universal access to clean energy and formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve the supply, distribution and quality of affordable energy to consumers according to their economic circumstances. Consideration should be given to the choice of appropriate levels of service, quality and technology, regulatory oversight, the need for awareness-raising programmes and the importance of community participation.

77. **Public utilities.** Member States should promote universal access to public utilities and formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve rules and statutes dealing with provision of service, consumer information, security deposits and advance payment for service, late payment fees, termination and restoration of service, establishment of payment plans and dispute resolution between consumers and utility service providers, taking into account the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers.

78. **Tourism.** Member States should ensure that their consumer protection policies are adequate to address the marketing and provision of goods and services related to tourism, including, but not limited to, travel, traveller accommodation and timeshares. Member States should, in particular, address the cross-border challenges raised by such activity, including enforcement cooperation and information-sharing with other Member States, and should also cooperate with the relevant stakeholders in the tourism-travel sector.

VI. International cooperation

79. Member States should, especially in a regional or subregional context:

(a) Develop, review, maintain or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms for the exchange of information on national policies and measures in the field of consumer protection;

(b) Cooperate or encourage cooperation in the implementation of consumer protection policies to achieve greater results within existing resources. Examples of such cooperation could be collaboration in the setting up or joint use of testing facilities, common testing procedures, exchange of consumer information and education programmes, joint training programmes and joint elaboration of regulations;

(c) Cooperate to improve the conditions under which essential goods are offered to consumers, giving due regard to both price and quality. Such cooperation could include joint procurement of essential goods, exchange of information on different procurement possibilities and agreements on regional product specification.

80. Member States should develop or strengthen information links regarding products which have been banned, withdrawn or severely restricted in order to enable other importing countries to protect themselves adequately against the harmful effects of such products.

81. Member States should work to ensure that the quality of products and the information relating to such products does not vary from country to country in a way that would have detrimental effects on consumers.

82. Member States should improve their ability to cooperate in combating fraudulent and deceptive cross-border commercial practices, as that serves an important public interest, recognizing that cooperation on particular investigations or cases under these guidelines remains within the discretion of the consumer protection enforcement agency that is asked to cooperate.

83. The consumer protection enforcement agencies of Member States should coordinate investigations and enforcement activities to avoid interference with the investigations and enforcement activities of consumer protection enforcement agencies taking place in other jurisdictions.

84. The consumer protection enforcement agencies of Member States should make every effort to resolve disagreements that may arise regarding cooperation.

85. Member States and their consumer protection enforcement agencies should make use of existing international networks and enter into appropriate bilateral and multilateral arrangements and other initiatives to implement these guidelines.

86. Member States should enable their consumer protection policy agencies, in consultation with consumer protection enforcement agencies, to take a leading role in developing the framework for combating fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices, as set out in these guidelines.

87. Member States are invited to designate a consumer protection enforcement agency or a consumer protection policy agency to act as a contact point to facilitate cooperation under these guidelines. Those designations are intended to complement and not replace other means of cooperation. Such designations should be notified to the Secretary-General.

88. Member States should provide their consumer protection enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate, pursue, obtain and, where appropriate, share relevant information and evidence, particularly on matters relating to cross-border fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices affecting consumers. That authority should extend to cooperation with foreign consumer protection enforcement agencies and other appropriate foreign counterparts.

89. Member States should consider participating in multilateral and bilateral arrangements to improve international judicial and inter-agency cooperation in the recovery of foreign assets and the enforcement of decisions in cross-border cases.

90. Member States may wish to consider relevant international guidelines and standards on protecting consumers from fraudulent and deceptive cross-border commercial practices, in considering the legal authority to provide to their consumer protection enforcement agencies, and, where appropriate, adapt those guidelines and standards to their circumstances. In so doing, Member States may wish to study the Guidelines for Protecting Consumers from Fraudulent and Deceptive Commercial Practices across Borders of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

91. To promote sustainable consumption, Member States, international bodies and business should work together to develop, transfer and disseminate environmentally sound technologies, including through appropriate financial support from developed countries, and to devise new and innovative mechanisms for financing their transfer

among all countries, in particular to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

92. Member States and international organizations, as appropriate, should promote and facilitate capacity-building in the area of sustainable consumption, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In particular, Member States should also facilitate cooperation among consumer groups and other relevant organizations of civil society, with the aim of strengthening capacity in this area.

93. Member States and international bodies, as appropriate, should promote programmes relating to consumer education and information.

94. Member States should work to ensure that policies and measures for consumer protection are implemented with due regard to their not becoming barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

VII. International institutional machinery

A. Institutional arrangements

95. An intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy, operating within the framework of an existing commission of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, will provide the institutional machinery.

96. Member States should take appropriate steps at the national or regional levels to implement these guidelines.

B. Functions of the intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy

97. The intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy shall have the following functions:

(a) To provide an annual forum and modalities for multilateral consultations, discussion and exchange of views between Member States on matters related to the guidelines, in particular their implementation and the experience arising therefrom;

(b) To undertake studies and research periodically on consumer protection issues related to the guidelines based on a consensus and the interests of Member States and disseminate them with a view to increasing the exchange of experience and giving greater effectiveness to the guidelines;

(c) To conduct voluntary peer reviews of national consumer protection policies of Member States, as implemented by consumer protection authorities;

(d) To collect and disseminate information on matters relating to the overall attainment of the goals of the guidelines and to the appropriate steps Member States have taken at the national or regional levels to promote effective implementation of their objectives and principles;

(e) To provide capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries and economies in transition in formulating and enforcing consumer protection laws and policies;

(f) To consider relevant studies, documentation and reports from relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations and networks, to exchange information on work programmes and topics for

consultations and to identify work-sharing projects and cooperation in the provision of technical assistance;

(g) To make appropriate reports and recommendations on the consumer protection policies of Member States, including the application and implementation of these guidelines;

(h) To operate between and report to the United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices;

(i) To conduct a periodic review of the guidelines, when mandated by the United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices;

(j) To establish such procedures and methods of work as may be necessary to carry out its mandate.

98. In the performance of its functions, neither the intergovernmental group nor its subsidiary organs shall pass judgement on the activities or conduct of individual Member States or of individual enterprises in connection with a specific business transaction. The intergovernmental group or its subsidiary organs should avoid becoming involved when enterprises to a specific business transaction are in dispute.

99. The intergovernmental group shall establish such procedures as may be necessary to deal with issues related to confidentiality.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2015Seventieth session
Agenda item 18 (a)**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.1)]***70/187. International trade and development***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013 and 69/205 of 19 December 2014,

Taking note of its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development¹ and the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development³ in, inter alia, international trade, as an important action area for sustainable development;
3. *Welcomes* the convening of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting;
4. *Also welcomes* the convening of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Kenya from 17 to 22 July 2016;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015

¹ A/70/15 (Parts I-IV).

² A/70/277.

³ Resolution 69/313.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2016Seventieth session
Agenda item 18 (b)**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.2)]***70/188. International financial system and development***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, both entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009, 65/143 of 20 December 2010, 66/187 of 22 December 2011, 67/197 of 21 December 2012, 68/201 of 20 December 2013 and 69/206 of 19 December 2014,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹ its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,² the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,³ Agenda 21,⁴ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21⁵ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁶

Recalling also the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,⁷

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,⁸

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and their respective outcome documents,⁹

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",¹⁰

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and taking note of its progress report,¹¹

Recalling the high-level thematic debate on the state of the world economy and finance and its impact on development, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 17 and 18 May 2012,

Recalling also the meeting of the Second Committee, held pursuant to resolution 67/197, on 13 November 2013, to discuss actions in response to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and prospects for restoring confidence and economic growth,

¹ Resolution 55/2.

² *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁷ Resolution 63/239, annex.

⁸ Resolution 63/303, annex.

⁹ Resolutions 65/1 and 68/6.

¹⁰ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹¹ A/64/884.

Noting the Sixth Astana Economic Forum and the World Anti-Crisis Conference, held in Astana from 22 to 24 May 2013, and the Second World Anti-Crisis Conference, held in Astana from 21 to 23 May 2014,

Noting also the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 20 to 22 June 2013,

Noting further the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Brisbane, Australia, on 15 and 16 November 2014,

Noting the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Saint Petersburg on 5 and 6 September 2013,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Noting that, while some developing countries have made major contributions to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support development and strong, sustained, balanced and inclusive economic growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to ensure the meaningful and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging that effective global economic governance in an increasingly interconnected world is of critical importance for the success of national efforts to achieve sustainable development in all countries and that, while significant efforts have been made over the years, there remains the need to continue to improve global economic governance and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard,

Recalling the commitment to work in solidarity on a coordinated and comprehensive global response to the ongoing impacts of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis on development and to take actions aimed at, inter alia, restoring confidence, sustaining economic growth and creating full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and people with disabilities, and equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and job creation and promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme, embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives, and in this regard inviting the international financial institutions to be supportive in accordance with their respective mandates,

Recognizing the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries,

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹² and recognizing in this context that the international financial institutions should be supportive, in accordance with their mandates, of the challenges and special needs and priorities of the least developed countries, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and countries in special situations,

Stressing the importance of commitment to ensuring and supporting sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹³
2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹⁴
3. *Reiterates* the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy in order to ensure balanced, sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment and quality jobs, and also reiterates the need for mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;
4. *Notes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis, and recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic

¹² *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

¹³ A/70/311.

¹⁴ Resolution 70/1.

recovery, address turbulence in global financial and commodity markets, tackle high unemployment and unsustainable debt in several countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, reinforce the banking sector, including by increasing its transparency and accountability, address systemic fragilities and imbalances, reform and strengthen the international financial system and continue and enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

5. *Also notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates that make the coordination of their actions crucial;

6. *Resolves* to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy and environment institutions and platforms and to increase cooperation between major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures, and commits itself to taking better advantage of relevant United Nations forums for promoting universal and holistic coherence and international commitments to sustainable development, building on the vision of the Monterrey Consensus;²

7. *Recalls* that countries must have the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and pursue tailored and targeted responses to the various types of shocks, including economic and financial crises, and calls for conditionalities to be streamlined to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

8. *Notes*, in this regard, the increase in resources and the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and flexible instruments, such as the precautionary and liquidity line, the flexible credit line and the rapid financing instrument, and the refinement of the lending framework for low-income countries, while also noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities;

9. *Urges*, in this regard, the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

10. *Invites* the multilateral development banks and other international development banks to continue providing both concessional and non-concessional stable, long-term development finance by leveraging contributions and capital and by mobilizing resources from capital markets, and stresses that development banks should make optimal use of their resources and balance sheets, consistent with maintaining their financial integrity, and should update and develop their policies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Recognizes* the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stresses the challenges posed by excessive volatility of short-term capital flows to many developing countries, notes that the design and implementation of capital flow management measures to address those challenges, such as macroeconomic policies, macroprudential measures and various forms of capital account management, need to take into account the specific circumstances of individual countries, while also remaining fully cognizant of the potential risks involved in capital flow management;

12. *Notes* that regulatory gaps and misaligned incentives continue to pose risks to financial stability, including risks of spillover effects of financial crises to developing countries, which suggests a need to pursue further reforms of the international financial and monetary system and continued strengthening of international coordination and policy coherence to enhance global financial and macroeconomic stability, emphasizes the need to work to prevent and reduce the risk and impact of financial crises, acknowledging that national policy decisions can have systemic and far-ranging effects well beyond national borders, including on developing countries, highlights the importance of pursuing sound macroeconomic policies that contribute to global stability, equitable and sustainable growth and sustainable development, while strengthening financial systems and economic institutions, and notes that, when dealing with risks from large and volatile capital flows, necessary macroeconomic policy adjustment could be supported by macroprudential and, as appropriate, capital flow management measures;

13. *Recognizes* the need for the international financial institutions to promote, within their respective mandates, including by providing the right incentives for medium-term and long-term investment and the sharing of best practices, the mobilization of capital flows in order to better channel national and international investment for sustainable development based on its three dimensions;

14. *Emphasizes* the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

15. *Recommits* to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and in global economic governance, recognizes the importance of overcoming obstacles to planned resource increases and governance reforms at the International Monetary Fund, notes that the implementation of the 2010 reforms of the Fund remains the highest priority, strongly urges the earliest ratification of those reforms, and reiterates its commitment to further governance reform at both the Fund and the World Bank to adapt to changes in the global economy;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance of the international financial institutions supporting, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, in particular developing countries, and recommitments to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

17. *Notes* the 2015 Shareholding Review of the World Bank, including the agreed principles that guide shareholding reviews and the road map for its implementation, and looks forward to the implementation of the road map, including the agreement on a dynamic formula;

18. *Recommits* to a redoubling of its efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation, to reducing opportunities for tax avoidance and considering inserting anti-abuse clauses in all tax treaties, to enhancing disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries, including by seeking to ensure transparency in all financial transactions between Governments and companies to relevant tax authorities, and to making sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of the countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies;

19. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, invites other regions to carry out similar exercises, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations to assist both source and destination countries to help to combat illicit flows and appropriate international institutions and regional organizations to publish estimates of the volume and composition of illicit financial flows, calls upon States to identify, assess and act on money-laundering risks, including through effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force standards on anti-money-laundering/counter-terrorism financing, and encourages information-sharing among financial institutions to mitigate the potential impact of the anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing standards on access to financial services;

20. *Urges* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹⁵ and encourages parties to review its implementation, commits to making the Convention an effective instrument to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption and bribery, prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and recover and return stolen assets to their country of origin, while encouraging the international community to develop good practices on asset return and supporting the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges that regional conventions against corruption be updated and ratified, and reiterates the need to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows and to work to strengthen regulatory frameworks at all levels to further increase transparency and accountability of financial institutions and the corporate sector, as well as public administrations, while strengthening international cooperation and national institutions to combat money-laundering and financing of terrorism;

21. *Calls for* the swift implementation of the 2010 quota and governance reform of the International Monetary Fund, notes the progress made by the Fund on the review of the quota formula in January 2013, and emphasizes the importance of reaching agreement on the quota formula, in parallel to the fifteenth general review of the quotas and as part of ongoing reform processes, in order to ensure the Fund's capability to address the challenges encountered by today's international monetary and financial system;

22. *Reaffirms* its commitment to an open and transparent, gender-balanced and merit-based process for selecting the heads of the international financial

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and to enhance diversity of staff;

23. *Emphasizes* the need for more effective government involvement in order to ensure an appropriate regulation of the market which promotes the public interest, and recognizes in this regard the need to better regulate financial markets to promote economic stability and sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth;

24. *Also emphasizes* that the 2008 world financial and economic crisis underscored the need for sound regulation of financial markets to strengthen financial and economic stability, as well as the imperative of a global financial safety net, welcomes the important steps taken since the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, particularly following the crisis in 2008, to build resilience, reduce vulnerability to international financial disruption and reduce spillover effects of global financial crises, including to developing countries, in a reform agenda whose completion remains a high priority, and notes that the membership of the International Monetary Fund bolstered the Fund's lending capacity, that multilateral and national development banks played important countercyclical roles during the crisis and that the world's principal financial centres worked together to reduce systemic risks and financial volatility through stronger national financial regulation, including Basel III and the broader financial reform agenda;

25. *Takes note* of the work by the Financial Stability Board on financial market reform, commits to sustaining or strengthening frameworks for macroprudential regulation and countercyclical buffers, reiterates the need to hasten the completion of the reform agenda on financial market regulation, including assessing and if necessary reducing the systemic risks associated with shadow banking, markets for derivatives, securities lending and repurchase agreements, and recommits to addressing the risk created by "too-big-to-fail" financial institutions and to addressing cross-border elements in effective resolution of troubled, systemically important financial institutions;

26. *Reiterates* the need to resolve to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations, while promoting competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings, so as to improve the quality of ratings, acknowledges the efforts of the Financial Stability Board and others in this area, supports the building of greater transparency requirements for evaluation standards of credit-rating agencies, and requests that ongoing work on these issues be continued, including at the United Nations;

27. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, acknowledges that special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience, and also recognizes the need to continue regular reviews of the role of special drawing rights, including with reference to their potential role in the international reserve system;

28. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, stresses the need to continue to strengthen surveillance of the financial policies of countries, and in this regard takes note of the new surveillance approach of the International Monetary Fund to better integrate bilateral and multilateral surveillance, along with cross-border and cross-sectoral linkages with macroeconomic and macroprudential policies, while paying closer

attention to the spillover effects from national economic and financial policies onto the global economy;

29. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need to strengthen intergovernmental and independent surveillance of national financial policies and their impact on international interest rates, exchange rates and capital flows;

30. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue to enhance the transparency of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including its potential impact on the development prospects of developing countries;

31. *Calls upon* the multilateral, regional and subregional development banks and development funds to continue to play a vital role in serving the development needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through coordinated action, as appropriate, stresses that strengthened regional development banks and subregional financial institutions can add flexible financial support to national and regional development efforts, thus enhancing their ownership and overall efficiency, and can promote regional integration, increasing resilience to economic shocks, welcomes in this regard recent capital increases at multilateral and regional development banks, and encourages efforts to ensure that subregional development banks are adequately funded;

32. *Welcomes* efforts by new development banks to develop safeguard systems in open consultation with stakeholders on the basis of established international standards, and encourages all development banks to establish or maintain social and environmental safeguard systems, including on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive;

33. *Encourages* enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

34. *Stresses* the need to continuously improve standards of corporate and public sector governance, including those related to accounting, auditing and measures to ensure transparency, noting the disruptive effects of inadequate policies;

35. *Recognizes* the need for the international financial institutions, as appropriate, to promote gender mainstreaming in their policies and programmes, including macroeconomic, job creation and structural reform policies and programmes, in accordance with relevant national priorities and strategies;

36. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

37. *Recommits* itself to enabling women's full and equal participation in the economy and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership;

38. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full

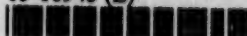
achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2016Seventieth session
Agenda item 18 (b)**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.2)]***70/189. Financial inclusion for sustainable development***The General Assembly,**Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,**Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,**Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,**Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, sets out policies, the adoption and implementation of which seek to increase financial inclusion, and that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, inter alia, seeks to ensure a policy and regulatory environment for the promotion of financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection, working towards full and equal access to formal financial services for all,**Emphasizing the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation,*

Acknowledging that the promotion of formal financial systems and services with robust risk-based regulatory frameworks for all financial intermediation, as appropriate, contributes to effectively and comprehensively combating corruption and curbing illicit financial flows,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 20 and 21 April 2015),¹ of the report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development² and of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development,³

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ of, inter alia, several targets related to the promotion of financial inclusion, recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement;

2. *Also welcomes* the inclusion in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁵ of, inter alia, several policies and actions intended to ensure a policy and regulatory environment for the promotion of financial inclusion, and in this regard looks forward to their implementation;

3. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to financial inclusion in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "Financial inclusion for sustainable development", in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

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¹ A/70/85-E/2015/77.

² A/70/311.

³ A/70/320.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313.



General Assembly

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4 February 2016Seventieth session
Agenda item 18 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.3)]***70/190. External debt sustainability and development***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012 and 68/202 of 20 December 2013,

Taking note of its resolution 69/207 of 19 December 2014,

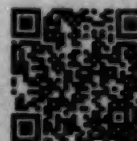
Taking note also of the work of the United Nations in this area,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹

¹ A/70/278.



2. *Decides* to devote a special event of the Second Committee during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly to lessons learned from legislative steps taken by certain countries and other appropriate action to reduce the vulnerability of sovereigns to holdout creditors, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, building on the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to the present resolution and resulting in a summary of the event;

3. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council, at its annual forum on financing for development follow-up, to consider how to improve sovereign debt restructuring, taking into account the roles of the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant forums, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter, including its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the external debt situation of developing countries and options for enhanced approaches to debt restructuring and resolution mechanisms that take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 February 2016Seventieth session
Agenda item 18 (d)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/470/Add.4)]

70/191. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/224 of 22 December 2004, 61/190 of 20 December 2006, 63/207 of 19 December 2008, 64/192 of 21 December 2009, 66/190 of 22 December 2011 and 68/203 of 20 December 2013 on commodities,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,¹ the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005² and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling implementation target 2.c under Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the aim of which is to adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and to facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help to limit extreme food price volatility, and implementation target 9.b under Goal 9 of the 2030 Agenda, the aim of which is to support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive

¹ Resolution 55/2.² Resolution 60/1.

policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities,

Noting the ongoing efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³ adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁴ adopted in September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,⁵ adopted in November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and recognizing the need to establish a plan of action for cooperation with middle-income countries,

Recalling the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives,

Taking note of the targets set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, which reaffirms the pledge to end hunger and poverty,⁶

Noting the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security, supporting the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, initiated in 2012, and the twin-track approach enunciated in the updated comprehensive framework for action produced by the United Nations system High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in September 2010,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,⁷

Recalling also the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda Heads of State and Government expressed concern about the excessive volatility of commodity prices, including for food and agriculture and its consequences for global food security and

³ Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

⁴ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁵ Resolution 69/137, annex II.

⁶ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

⁷ Resolution 63/303, annex.

improved nutrition outcomes, called for the adoption of measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and for the adoption by relevant regulatory bodies of measures to facilitate timely, accurate and transparent access to market information in an effort to ensure that commodity markets appropriately reflect underlying demand and supply changes and to help limit the excessive volatility of commodity prices, noted the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and called for the provision of access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, consistent with sustainable management practices as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fishers,

Taking note of the outcome of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development⁸ and of further decisions and agreed conclusions on commodities adopted by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies in 2014 and 2015,

Taking note also of the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities, adopted at the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade on Commodities, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 21 to 23 November 2005, and endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,⁹

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)¹⁰ and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",¹¹

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development "Commodities and development reports" of 2013 and of 2015, and noting the role that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has been playing as an institution in looking at the interaction between commodity markets and economic development and in the elaboration of the concept of commodity-dependent developing countries,

Deeply concerned by the fact that many commodity-dependent developing countries continue to be highly vulnerable to price fluctuations, and recognizing the need to continue efforts to diversify economies, as well as to improve the regulation, where appropriate, and the efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets nationally, regionally and internationally in order to address excessive commodity price volatility,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among

⁸ See TD/500/Add.1.

⁹ See A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.253 (VIII).

¹⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.ILA.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Recognizing the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities, especially on women and girls,

Recognizing also that the structural constraints that women face as economic agents, including segmentation in low-value-added or subsistence-oriented work, unequal access to productive resources, limited access to training and skill-building due to gender segmentation in education and labour markets and a lack of resources, as well as the heavy burden of unpaid work, make women and girls especially vulnerable to the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities,

Recognizing further that many developing countries continue to be highly dependent on primary commodities as their principal source of export revenues, employment, income generation and domestic savings and require additional sources of growth to become the driving force of investment, economic growth and social development, including poverty eradication,

Recognizing, in this context, that many developing countries continue to be highly dependent on primary commodities, and recognizing also the challenges and special needs of those countries,

Stressing the critical importance of sustainable and inclusive industrial development for developing countries as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification and value addition,

Recognizing that uncertainty in global commodity markets reinforces the need to comprehensively deal with the commodity problematique, inter alia, the demand for commodities, supply capacities, commodity revenues and investments in commodity-dependent economies, while taking due account of the diversity of each country's individual situation and needs and the promotion of their sustainable development, and to strengthen the nexus between, inter alia, trade, finance, investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, energy and industrialization,

Noting the work on consensus-building on commodity-related issues achieved through meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the multi-year expert meetings on commodities and development, the Global Commodities Forum and the African Oil, Gas and Mines Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition,

Recognizing the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities on both producer and consumer countries, particularly commodity-dependent developing countries,

Noting the recent and marked reversal in commodity prices and that commodity net export economies may need to adjust to a possibly protracted period of lower export and fiscal revenues,

Noting also the volatility and unpredictability of commodity prices, which have threatened, inter alia, the food security of net importers in the recent past, and noting further that the continuation of this long-term uncertainty and volatility, intensified by recent trends in commodity prices, can have an impact on the capacities of many developing countries, particularly commodity-dependent

countries, to continue to implement policies for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Stressing the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, to diversify commodity economies and to integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

Noting all relevant voluntary initiatives aimed at improving transparency in commodity markets and mitigating the impact of excessive price volatility,

Underlining the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, noting global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, the joint organization data initiative and other regional data platforms and programmes, and urging the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products,

Expressing deep concern at the adverse impact of climate change and extreme weather patterns on access to, and the utilization and prices of, agricultural commodities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects;¹²

2. *Recognizes* the interlinkage between the adequate and transparent functioning of commodity markets and the capacity of some commodity-dependent developing countries to collect appropriate fiscal revenues from commodity exports and mobilize domestic sources to support their sustainable development, mainly through sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrialization, decent work and market diversification;

3. *Encourages* support for developing countries, according to their national plans and policies, through technical assistance, to increase their capacity in detecting and averting trade mispricing in their commodities sectors in order to enhance their benefits from those sectors to support sustainable growth and development;

4. *Reiterates* the need for further efforts to address excessive commodity price volatility, in particular by assisting producers, especially small-scale producers, including women, in accordance with national plans and policies, in managing risk;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to address the factors that create structural barriers to international trade and impede, inter alia, diversification, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, limited access to financial services resulting in scarce resources for investing in the commodity sector, weak infrastructure, particularly regarding both the cost and availability of transportation and storage, and lack of skills in producing and marketing alternative products;

6. *Welcomes* the convening of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015;

¹² A/70/184.

7. *Calls for a coherent set of policy actions at the national, regional and international levels to address excessive price volatility and support commodity-dependent developing countries in mitigating negative impacts, in particular by facilitating value addition and enhancing their participation in commodity and related product value chains, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies and by encouraging the use and further development of market-oriented risk management tools, instruments and strategies;*
8. *Stresses the importance of developing and strengthening agricultural policies and strategies that recognize and address women's critical role in food security and improved nutrition outcomes as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity and malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;*
9. *Recognizes the potential for innovation, productivity improvements and the promotion of non-traditional exports in most commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, and calls for enhanced support by the international community as well as exchanges of experience in these areas within the framework of South-South economic cooperation;*
10. *Underscores the importance of increased investments in infrastructure as a means of promoting agricultural development and enhancing commodity diversification, including value-added production, and trade, and urges the international community to assist commodity-dependent developing countries to mainstream trade as well as sound investment and financial policies as key elements of development strategies, based on national circumstances and development priorities, and to invest in and support research and development of agriculture productivity;*
11. *Recognizes the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹³ by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012;*
12. *Also recognizes the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems¹⁴ by the Committee on World Food Security in 2014;*
13. *Stresses that technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at improving the commodity export competitiveness of producers are particularly important for developing countries, especially in Africa, and invites the donor community to provide the necessary resources for commodity-specific financial and technical assistance, in particular for human and institutional capacity-building, including gender-responsive measures, as well as infrastructure development of developing countries, with a view to reducing their institutional bottlenecks and transaction costs and enhancing their commodity trade and development in accordance with national development plans;*
14. *Also stresses that the Aid for Trade initiative should aim to help developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from World Trade Organization agreements and, more broadly, to expand their trade;*

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, C 2015/20, appendix D.

15. *Recalls* the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate organs of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;

16. *Encourages* developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards the goal of realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

17. *Strongly encourages* international financial institutions and development banks to assist developing countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, in managing the effects of excessive price volatility;

18. *Reaffirms* that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of public and private sector revenues in developed and developing countries derived from all commodities and commodities-related industries, including final processed goods, in support of development;

20. *Notes* the important contributions of the Common Fund for Commodities and other international commodities organizations, and encourages them, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant bodies, to strengthen their coordination and to identify and implement innovative measures to enable the sustainable contribution of the commodity sector to economic development, including ways to reduce vulnerability to volatility in commodities, as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets and the reliability of supply, enhance diversification and the addition of value, improve the competitiveness of commodities, strengthen the market chain, improve market structures, broaden the export base and ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders, on the basis of a shared understanding of the contribution of commodities to sustainable development;

21. *Stresses* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its partners, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, within their respective mandates, should continue to engage actively in collaborative research and analysis of the commodity problematique and related capacity- and consensus-building activities, with a view to providing regular analysis and policy advice relevant to the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating accession to the World Trade Organization, particularly for commodity-dependent developing countries, in full compliance with its rules;

23. *Underlines* the urgent need for the provision of and access to trade finance to commodity-dependent developing countries, given the tightened access to all types of credit and noting debt sustainability;

24. *Welcomes* the commitment to redouble efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them;

25. *Decides* to hold a one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets during the first half of 2016 to review world commodity trends and prospects, particularly in commodity-dependent countries, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly;

26. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, global, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and all relevant international financial and economic institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of the low industrialization and diversification of the economies of some commodity-dependent developing countries in relation to the capacity of Member States to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;¹⁵

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "Commodities" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

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¹⁵ See resolution 70/1.



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Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/471)]***70/192. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and its resolutions 68/204 of 20 December 2013, 68/279 of 30 June 2014 and 69/208 of 19 December 2014, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/11 of 13 June 2014 and Council decision 2015/257 of 23 July 2015,

¹ Resolution 70/1.

Recalling also its resolution 69/108 of 8 December 2014 on the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to its resolution 66/288 of 11 September 2012,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration² and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document,⁴ and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,⁵

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",⁶

Noting that the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council held joint events on the theme "Illicit financial flows and development financing in Africa" on 23 October 2015 and on the theme "Domestic resource mobilization: where to go after Addis?" on 11 November 2015,

Recalling the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York on 7 and 8 October 2013,

Reiterating the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development;⁷

2. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of all the commitments included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;⁸

3. *Welcomes* the voluntary commitments and announcements made in conjunction with the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and looks forward to their publication and full and effective implementation;

4. *Looks forward* to the launch of the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in its current cycle, in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 130, 131 and 132 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

5. *Reaffirms* that the Economic and Social Council annual forum on financing for development follow-up:

² Resolution 55/2.

³ Resolution 60/1.

⁴ Resolution 65/1.

⁵ Resolution 68/6.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ A/70/320.

⁸ Resolution 69/313.

(a) Will hold its annual meetings at Headquarters in New York in the spring; its inaugural meeting will be held in 2016;

(b) Will be chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council, who will take the steps necessary to prepare the work of the forum in accordance with the modalities set out in paragraph 132 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

6. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to produce an information note regarding arrangements for the meeting of the annual forum in 2016;

7. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to consider appointing two co-facilitators, as appropriate, who will prepare the draft conclusions and recommendations of the annual forum and facilitate consultations among Member States with a view to reaching its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

8. *Urges* international, bilateral and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular to support the travel to and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the annual forum;

9. *Looks forward* to the annual report of the inter-agency task force to be convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 133 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee, and taking into account that the inter-agency task force to be convened by the Secretary-General will report on progress in implementing the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

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General Assembly

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Agenda item 20

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472)]***70/193. International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, which state that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which recognizes, inter alia, that well-designed and well-managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling



environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹ adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, supports the efforts of the least developed countries to develop a sustainable tourism sector, in particular through infrastructure and human capital development, increased access to finance and enhanced access to global tourism networks and distribution channels,

Recalling also that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, recognizes that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation,

Recalling further that the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/137 of 12 December 2014, recognizes that tourism can play an important role in building the economic sector, providing employment and generating foreign exchange,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme, embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which promotes sustainable tourism,

Recalling its resolutions 2148 (XXI) of 4 November 1966, entitled "International Tourist Year", 53/200 of 15 December 1998, entitled "Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism", 65/148 of 20 December 2010, entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism", 68/207 of 20 December 2013, entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America", and 69/233 of 19 December 2014, entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection",

Taking note of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-first session, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 12 to 17 September 2015, on the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and others to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the launching of the sustainable tourism

¹ Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

programme of the framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Recognizing the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an international year of sustainable tourism for development, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world,

Recognizing also the important role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment, the improvement of quality of life and the economic empowerment of women and youth and its contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development;
2. *Invites* the World Tourism Organization, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the organization and implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
3. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution that are above and beyond the activities currently within the mandate of the lead agency should be met from voluntary contributions;
4. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year to promote actions at all levels, including through international cooperation, and to support sustainable tourism as a means of promoting and accelerating sustainable development, especially poverty eradication;
5. *Requests* the World Tourism Organization, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, elaborating on the evaluation of the International Year.

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General Assembly

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Agenda item 20

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472)]***70/194. Oil slick on Lebanese shores***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010, 66/192 of 22 December 2011, 67/201 of 21 December 2012, 68/206 of 20 December 2013 and 69/212 of 19 December 2014 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,¹ in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,³

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147, 66/192, 67/201, 68/206 and 69/212,

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities

¹ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.



vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 69/212, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the General Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the conclusions on measuring and quantifying the environmental damage set out in the report of the Secretary-General,⁴

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴
2. *Reiterates*, for the tenth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;
3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health in the country;
4. *Acknowledges* the conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that studies show that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to 856.4 million United States dollars in 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake, within existing resources, a further study, building on, inter alia, the initial work of the World Bank presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,⁵ with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by neighbouring countries;

⁴ A/70/291.

⁵ A/62/343.

5. *Reiterates its request* in this regard to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the aforementioned damage and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly and adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to intensify their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for recovery and rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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22 December 2015



General Assembly

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Agenda item 20**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472)]***70/195. Combating sand and dust storms***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolution 69/221 of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms of the United Nations Environment Programme, and also taking note of other initiatives, including the ministerial meeting on sand and dust storms held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Acknowledging that, based on the notion of hazards as defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,¹ addressing multidimensional hazards, including those posed by dust and sandstorms, contributes towards the achievement of the goals, targets and priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Emphasizing the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of dust and sandstorms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, taking note of the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting a regional meeting of environment ministers in Tehran on 29 September 2010, and welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries,

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust and sandstorms through the development of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast dust storms and sandstorms, and affirming that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of dust and sandstorms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

1. *Recognizes* that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land-management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly undertake measures to address these challenges;

2. *Acknowledges* the role of the United Nations development system in promoting international cooperation to combat sand and dust storms, and invites all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and all other related organizations to address this problem and contribute to the enhancement of capacity-building, the implementation of regional and subregional projects, the sharing of information, best practices and experiences and the boosting of technical cooperation in the affected

¹ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

countries and countries of origin, to improve the implementation of sustainable land management practices and the development of early warning systems as tools to combat sand and dust storms in accordance with their strategic plans;

3. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to continue to share best practices, experiences and technical expertise in combating dust and sandstorms, including through improved implementation of sustainable land-management practices, and to promote regional cooperation on this matter;

4. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant entities of the United Nations development system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet the objectives set out in the present resolution;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the report entitled "Global assessment of sand and dust storms", which is being prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, in the language in which it has been issued by the Programme.

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22 December 2015